

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store information sorted by each prescribed condition for said prescribed condition;

an information adding portion adding additional information to said sortation memory portion;

an acquisition portion acquiring from a different image processing apparatus information including additional information;

a comparison and display portion comparing the additional information acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus with the additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion, and displaying similar additional information; and

a registration portion selectively registering one of the additional information displayed by said comparison and display portion and the additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the additional information registered by said registration portion is identical to a prescribed item included in the additional information acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus, said information adding portion adds to said sortation memory portion information of a destination of a link, said information of the destination of the link being information of an access to a sortation memory portion included in said different image processing apparatus.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said information adding portion further includes an input portion inputting a name serving as said additional information, and said prescribed item is a name.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store sorted information;
an information adding portion adding additional information to said sortation memory portion;
an acquisition portion acquiring from a different image processing apparatus information including additional information;
a comparison portion comparing the additional information acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus with the additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion to acquire a result of said comparing; and

a registration portion driven by said result to register the additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said information adding portion adds to said sortation memory portion additional information acquired from a different apparatus.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said information adding portion further includes an input portion inputting a name serving as said additional information and adds to said sortation memory portion a name input via said input portion.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said acquisition portion acquires from said different image processing apparatus information including additional information added to a sortation memory portion of said different image processing apparatus and information of a date and time of registration of said additional information with said different image processing apparatus.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said information adding portion further includes a supplementation portion supplementing the additional information added to said sortation memory portion and said registration portion registers additional information supplemented by said supplementation portion.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a display portion displaying information including additional portion acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a result display portion displaying said result of said comparison provided by said comparison portion, wherein said registration portion further includes a select portion selecting additional information to be registered from said result displayed by said result display portion.

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a sortation memory portion provided in a form of virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store information of an original sorted by identification information;
a registration portion registering information with said sortation memory portion;

a notification portion notifying a different image processing apparatus of information registered by said registration portion;

an acquisition portion acquiring from said different image processing apparatus information of an original stored in said different image processing apparatus at a sortation memory portion having registered therewith information identical to information imparted by said notification portion; and

a storage portion storing to said sortation memory portion information of an original acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing

portion, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said acquisition portion acquires from said different image processing apparatus information including at least one of information stored by said registration portion to said different image processing apparatus's sortation memory portion, information of an access to said different image processing apparatus, and a name identifying said sorted information.

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store sorted information;

an information adding portion adding additional information to said sortation memory portion;

an acquisition portion acquiring from a different image processing apparatus information including additional information;

a decision portion deciding whether there exists in the image processing apparatus of interest additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion that is identical to additional information acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus; and

an erasure portion driven by a result of a decision made by said decision portion and the additional information acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus to erase said information stored in said

sortation memory portion that is associated with the additional information acquired by said acquisition portion from said different image processing apparatus, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus sharing said sortation memory to erase appropriate information.

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store information of an original sorted by additional information added to an image of the original;

a detection portion detecting that said additional information has at least a portion designated;

an erasure portion erasing from said sortation memory portion additional information detected by said detection portion as having been designated and said information of the original with said additional information added thereto; and

a notification portion notifying a different image processing apparatus of said additional information erased by said erasure portion, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus sharing said sortation memory to erase appropriate information.

15. (Currently Amended) An additional-information notification system comprising a plurality of image processing apparatuses each including:

a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store sorted information;

an information adding portion adding additional information to said sortation memory portion;

a first notification portion notifying a different image processing apparatus of said additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion;

a decision portion deciding whether there exists in said image processing apparatus additional information identical or similar to additional information imparted by said first notification portion from a different image processing apparatus;

a second notification portion notifying of a result of a decision made by said decision portion said different image processing apparatus notified by said first notification portion of said additional information; and

a registration portion driven by said result informed by said second notification portion from a different image processing apparatus to register with said image processing apparatus of interest said additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

16. (Currently Amended) An additional-information notification system comprising a plurality of information processing apparatuses including first and second image processing apparatuses, said first and second image processing apparatuses including:

a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store sorted information;

an information adding portion adding additional information to said sortation memory portion;

an identification information production portion producing identification information identifying information stored in said sortation memory portion having said additional information added thereto;

a transmission portion transmitting to said first image processing apparatus said identification information produced by said identification information production portion;

a reception portion receiving identification information transmitted by said transmission portion from said second image processing apparatus;

a first storage portion driven by said additional information added by said information adding portion to said sortation memory portion to store to said sortation memory portion said identification information received by said reception portion from said second image processing portion;

a select portion selecting said identification information stored by said first storage portion to said sortation memory portion; a request portion driven by said identification information selected by said select portion to request information stored in said second image processing apparatus at said sortation memory portion;

a return notification portion operative in response to a request from said first image processing apparatus by said request portion to return to said first image processing apparatus said information stored in said sortation memory portion; and

a second storage portion storing to said sortation memory portion said information returned by said return notification portion from said second image

processing portion, to allow the first image processing apparatus and the second image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

17. (Currently Amended) An image information communication system comprising an image processing apparatus and a communication terminal, said image processing apparatus including:

a sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store sorted information;

a notification portion notifying said communication terminal of identification information used to identify information stored in said sortation memory portion;

an instruction reception portion receiving a printing instruction from said communication terminal; and

a transmission portion driven by said printing instruction received by said instruction reception portion from said communication terminal to transmit to a different image processing apparatus said information stored in said sortation memory portion, to allow the image processing apparatus to print information stored in the different image processing apparatus.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said communication terminal includes: a memory portion storing said identification information; and an instruction portion driven by said identification information stored in said storage portion to identify information to be printed, and issue said printing instruction to said image processing apparatus.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said instruction reception portion and said transmission portion perform communication in different manners of communication.

20. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

adding additional information to a sortation memory portion of an image processing apparatus, said sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store information sorted by each prescribed condition for said prescribed condition;

acquiring from a different image processing apparatus information including additional information;

comparing the additional information acquired from said different image processing apparatus at the step of acquiring with the additional information added to said sortation memory portion at the step of adding, and displaying similar additional information; and

selectively registering one of the additional information displayed at the step of comparing and displaying and the additional information added to said sortation memory portion at the step of adding, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

21. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

adding additional information to a sortation memory portion of an image processing apparatus, said sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area to store sorted information;

acquiring from a different image processing apparatus information including additional information;

comparing the additional information acquired from said different image processing apparatus at the step of acquiring with the additional information added to said sortation memory portion at the step of adding; and

registering said additional information added to said sortation memory portion at the step of adding, as based on a result of a comparison made at the step of comparing, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

registering information with a sortation memory portion of an image processing apparatus, said sortation memory portion provided in a form of a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area storing information of an original sorted by identification information;

notifying a different image processing apparatus of information registered at the step of registering;

acquiring from said different image processing apparatus the information of the original sorted stored in said different image processing apparatus's sortation

memory portion having registered therewith information identical to that imparted at the step of notifying; and

storing to said sortation memory portion said information of the original acquired from said different image processing apparatus at the step of acquiring, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus to share said sortation memory.

23. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting that additional information added to an image of an original is at least partially designated;

erasing from a sortation memory portion of an image processing apparatus said additional information detected as having been designated at the step of detecting and information of the original having said additional information added thereto, said sortation memory portion being a virtually sorted, prescribed memory area storing information of an original sorted by additional information added to an image of the original; and

notifying a different image processing apparatus of said additional information erased at the step of erasing, to allow the image processing apparatus and the different image processing apparatus sharing said sortation memory to erase appropriate information.